

IBT[®]
IBT INSTITUTE PVT. LTD

WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

Delhi Makes Pink Saheli Smart Card Mandatory for Free Bus Travel from August 1

- From 1 August, women must use the Pink Saheli Smart Card to travel free on DTC and cluster buses in Delhi. The existing paper ticket system for free travel will be discontinued.
- The smart card ensures transparent verification of eligible beneficiaries. It will help reduce misuse and improve digital ticketing.
- The initiative enhances accountability and efficiency in public transport. It also promotes cashless and technology-driven public services.

Department of Posts and TRAI Launch Nationwide Village-Level Telecom Performance Survey

- The Department of Posts and TRAI have launched a nationwide survey to evaluate telecom services in villages. It is one of India's largest rural telecom performance assessment exercises.
- The survey will measure mobile coverage, call quality, internet speed, and customer experience. The collected data will identify connectivity gaps in rural areas.
- TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) is a statutory regulatory body established on 20 February 1997 under the TRAI Act, 1997, headquartered in New Delhi, that regulates India's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors.

ICAI Inaugurates Global Orbit Summit 2026 in New Delhi

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organized the Global Orbit Summit 2026 in New Delhi to promote India's role in global trade and professional services. The summit focused on strengthening India's position as a global business and financial hub.
- The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, chartered accountants, and international experts to discuss Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and emerging opportunities. It emphasized innovation, cross-border collaboration, and skill development.
- ICAI is a statutory body established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, functioning under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It regulates the Chartered Accountancy profession in India.

Assam Launches Statewide Drug Disposal Campaign

- Assam launched a statewide drug disposal campaign to safely collect and destroy expired, unused, and unwanted medicines. The initiative aims to prevent misuse of pharmaceuticals and reduce environmental pollution.

- The campaign promotes scientific disposal methods instead of throwing medicines into household waste or water bodies. It also creates awareness about responsible medicine disposal.
- Safe drug disposal supports public health, environmental protection, and anti-drug abuse efforts, aligning with sustainable waste management practices.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Nationwide 'Vriksh Mitra' Campaign

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Vriksh Mitra' campaign to encourage mass participation in tree plantation and environmental conservation. The campaign aims to make environmental protection a people's movement.
- Citizens, schools, institutions, and community organizations are encouraged to plant and nurture trees under the initiative. The campaign emphasizes long-term care of planted saplings.
- The initiative supports Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and contributes to India's climate change mitigation and green development goals.

Delhi Govt Renames Mahila Samriddhi Yojana as Delhi Lakshmi Yojana

- The Delhi Government has renamed the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana as the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance and welfare support to eligible women.
- Provides ₹ 2,500/month to the eldest eligible woman (21–60 years) from a family residing in Delhi for at least 10 years, with annual income up to ₹ 2.5 lakh; expected to launch around Raksha Bandhan, excluding families owning a four-wheeler, receiving government pensions, or having a criminal record.
- old name (Mahila Samriddhi Yojana) or the new name (Delhi Lakshmi Yojana).

India Set to Launch its First Hydrogen Train under "Hydrogen for Heritage" Project

- India will launch its first hydrogen-powered train under the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative. The project promotes clean and eco-friendly railway transport.
- The hydrogen train is planned for heritage and hill routes, reducing carbon emissions. It supports India's goal of achieving net-zero emissions.
- Hydrogen is a zero-emission fuel, producing only water vapour as a by-product.

Uttarakhand Opens First GI Products Gallery

- Uttarakhand has inaugurated its first Geographical Indication (GI) Products Gallery. The gallery showcases products that have received GI tag recognition.
- It aims to promote local artisans, traditional crafts, and regional agricultural products. The initiative also boosts tourism and supports the local economy.
- GI Tags in India are granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

Lakhanpur (J&K) Selected for PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub Initiative

- Lakhanpur in Jammu & Kashmir has been selected under the PM SVANidhi Street Food Hub Initiative. The initiative focuses on developing organized street food markets.
- The project will improve hygiene, infrastructure, and business opportunities for street vendors. It also promotes local cuisine and tourism.
- PM SVANidhi was launched on 1 June 2020 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Ahmedabad Sets Guinness World Record by Planting 3.61 Lakh Saplings in One Hour

- Ahmedabad created a Guinness World Record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings in one hour through a massive public participation campaign.
- The plantation drive promotes environmental conservation and increases urban green cover.
- Ahmedabad is India's first UNESCO World Heritage City (2017).

Shubhanshu Shukla Launches Debut Book 'The Second Orbit'

- Indian Air Force (IAF) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla launched his debut book, 'The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts', in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The book, published by Penguin Random House India, was launched in the presence of former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairpersons A. S. Kiran Kumar and S. Somanath.
- Shubhanshu Shukla: As the pilot of Axiom Mission 4, he spent 18 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS), conducted seven Indian scientific experiments, and gained experience supporting India's Gaganyaan programme.

India Launches First Monthly Services Production Index

- The services sector contributes nearly 55% of India's GDP and is the largest sector of the Indian economy. It includes banking, insurance, transport, tourism, IT, and telecommunications.
- The new index provides monthly high-frequency data to monitor service sector performance. It is expected to improve economic planning and policy decisions.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is responsible for compiling major national statistical indicators. It also releases GDP estimates, CPI data, and the Annual Survey of Industries.

Maharashtra Doubles Pink E-Rickshaw Subsidy for Women

- The Maharashtra Cabinet increased the state subsidy under the Pink E-Rickshaw Scheme from 20% to 40% of the vehicle cost.
- The scheme is for women aged 20–50 years, with priority given to widows, divorcees, and women from economically weaker sections.

- The beneficiary contributes a minimum of 10% of the vehicle cost, while the remaining amount is financed through bank loans after adjusting the government subsidy

Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Pillale Sampada' Initiative

- 'Pillale Sampada' means "Children are Wealth" in Telugu and is a child welfare initiative launched by the Andhra Pradesh Government.
- The initiative focuses on improving children's education, nutrition, healthcare, and overall development through coordinated government support.
- The programme aims to ensure the holistic growth and well-being of children, especially those from economically weaker and vulnerable families.

Gujarat's Unjha Cumin and Fennel Receive GI Tag

- Unjha Cumin (Jeera) and Unjha Fennel (Saunf) from Gujarat have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, which protects products linked to a specific geographical origin.
- Unjha, located in Mehsana district of Gujarat, is known as the Spice City of India and is home to one of Asia's largest spice markets.
- In India, GI Tags are granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and the GI Registry is located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Cabinet Approves ₹ 1.27 Lakh Crore for Semicon Mission 2.0

- the Union Cabinet approved Semicon Mission 2.0 with an outlay of ₹ 1.27 lakh crore and the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme with a budget of ₹ 62,500 crore.
- Semicon Mission 2.0 extends the India Semiconductor Mission (launched in 2021) from 5 years to 12 years to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- The mission is based on six pillars, including chip design, to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

Centre Approves Two Railway Multitracking Projects in Odisha & Jharkhand

- the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved two railway multitracking projects for Odisha and Jharkhand.
- The projects include the doubling of the Paradeep–Haridaspur line and the construction of a fourth line on the Rajkharsawan–Dangoaposi route, with a total cost of ₹ 3,907 crore.
- The projects will add about 145 km to the Indian Railways network and are targeted for completion by FY 2029–30.

NABARD Launches 'Gramodyam' Programme

- NABARD launched the Gramodyam Programme on 13 July 2026 during its 45th Foundation Day to promote rural entrepreneurship among youth.

- It is a three-year pilot programme with a target of developing around 4,000 rural entrepreneurs across all States and Union Territories of India.
- Gramodyam is implemented in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and provides entrepreneurship training, mentoring, skill development, and enterprise setup support to participants.

PM Modi to Flag Off India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train

- The train will run on hydrogen fuel cell technology, where hydrogen reacts with oxygen to generate electricity and emits only water vapour, making it a zero-emission transport system.
- It will be flagged off from Jind district of Haryana, marking India's entry into hydrogen-powered rail transport under the National Green Hydrogen Mission(2023) ,Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Target: Produce 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030.

NITI Aayog Proposes Biotech Fund

- ₹ 50,000 Crore BioEconomy Growth Fund proposed for 2026–2035 to support biotechnology startups and industries by bridging the gap between research and commercial manufacturing ("valley of death").
- India's bioeconomy is projected to grow from \$195.3 billion (2025) to \$691 billion by 2035, with a long-term target of \$2.6 trillion by 2047
The initiative supports the government's vision of making India a global biotechnology innovation hub and promoting an Atmanirbhar Bharat in life sciences.

Vice-President Releases Book *The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks*

- 'The Voice of Justice: Justice Gavai Speaks' was released in July 2026 by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The book is edited by Prof. (Dr.) S. Sivakumar and published by Thomson Reuters in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA).
- It compiles the speeches of Justice B. R. Gavai, covering constitutional values, judicial implementation, ADR, technology-enabled courts, and global judicial cooperation.

UNESCO Award-Winning Restoration of Thukkachi Temple in Tamil Nadu

- The Thukkachi Temple belongs to the Great Living Chola Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcasing the architectural excellence of the Chola dynasty.
- The restoration received a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, recognizing outstanding scientific conservation practices.
- Chola temples are renowned for their Dravidian architecture, granite construction, intricate sculptures, and historical inscriptions, making them important cultural heritage sites.

India Tops International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 with Five Gold Medals

- India secured the top position at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 by winning five gold medals. This marked one of India's best-ever performances in the competition.
- The achievement highlights the strength of India's science education, talent identification, and Olympiad training programmes. It reflects the country's growing excellence in STEM education.
- The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) is an annual global competition for secondary school students, testing theoretical and experimental physics skills.

India Launches Campaign for UN Security Council Seat (2028–29)

- India has officially launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028–29 term.
- India has previously served eight terms as a non-permanent member of the UNSC and continues to seek permanent membership.
- The UN Security Council has 15 members—5 permanent (China, France, Russia, UK, and USA.) and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan's JAXA Successfully Launches and Lands Reusable Rocket

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched and safely landed a reusable experimental rocket. The mission marks a major milestone in Japan's reusable space technology programme.
- The project aims to develop cost-effective and reusable launch systems for future space missions. Reusable rockets can significantly reduce the cost of satellite launches.
- Major Space Agencies of the World :ISRO – India | JAXA – Japan | NASA – United States (USA) | Roscosmos – Russia | CNSA – China | ESA – European Space Agency (23 European countries).

Vepdegestrant – World's First PROTAC-Based Therapy

- Vepdegestrant is the world's first approved PROTAC (Proteolysis-Targeting Chimera)-based therapy, designed to degrade disease-causing proteins rather than merely blocking them.
- It is primarily developed for treating certain types of estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancer, especially in patients with resistant disease. This represents a new approach in targeted cancer therapy.
- PROTAC technology works by recruiting the cell's natural protein degradation system to selectively destroy harmful proteins, making it a breakthrough in precision medicine.

56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 Held at Bucaramanga, Colombia

- The 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 was held in Bucaramanga, Colombia, with 381 students from 87 countries participating. It is an annual global competition for high school students in physics.
- India participated for the 27th time, and the team was selected and trained by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- All five Indian participants won Gold Medals, and India jointly secured first place with Russia, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, and Taiwan in the competition.

Russia Launches 'Soyuz MS-29 Mission'

- Russia successfully launched the Soyuz MS-29 crewed mission to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- The launch was attended by NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman, marking the first visit by a NASA chief to the Baikonur Cosmodrome since 2018.
- The mission was carried out using the Soyuz-2.1a launch vehicle and transported National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Anil Menon and Roscosmos cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina to the orbital laboratory for the 75th long-duration expedition rotation.

SpaceX Launches the World's First Commercial Nuclear-Powered Satellite

- BOHR (Betavoltaic Orbital High-Reliability) is the world's first commercially built nuclear-powered satellite, developed by City Labs (Florida, USA).
- It was launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket during the Transporter-17 rideshare mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California (USA).
- BOHR uses a NanoTritiumbetavoltaic nuclear battery, which generates electricity from the radioactive decay of tritium, to demonstrate long-life power technology for future space missions.

SpaceX is the private aerospace company founded by Elon Musk in 2002.

World's First 7-Star Luxury Train

- Seven Stars in Kyushu is the world's first 7-star luxury train, launched in October 2013.
- It is owned and operated by JR Kyushu (Kyushu Railway Company) and designed by Eiji Mitooka.
- The train features traditional Japanese craftsmanship, deluxe wooden interiors, and showcases Kyushu's nature, culture, cuisine, and hospitality.

India, Kyrgyzstan Launch 'Manas and Mahabharata' Civilisation Initiative

- India and Kyrgyzstan launched the 'Manas and Mahabharata' Civilisation Initiative to strengthen cultural and historical ties. The initiative promotes academic research and cultural exchanges based on their epic traditions.
- The programme highlights shared civilizational values through literature, education, and people-to-people cooperation. It aims to deepen bilateral cultural diplomacy.
- Manas is the national epic of Kyrgyzstan, while the Mahabharata is one of India's two great Sanskrit epics.

DEFENCE NEWS

Aero India 2027 to be held in Bengaluru's Yelahanka Air Force Station

- Aero India 2027 will be organized at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, India's premier aerospace and defence exhibition venue. It showcases the latest military and civil aviation technologies from around the world.
- The event promotes defence cooperation, technology transfer, and indigenous manufacturing. It supports the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives in the defence sector.
- Aero India is India's largest aerospace and defence exhibition and air show, organized by the Ministry of Defence. It is held biennially (once every two years) at the Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

IAF Ranks Third in WDMMA Global Air Power List

- Ranking: The Indian Air Force (IAF) secured the 3rd position in the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) Global Air Power Rankings. The ranking measures the strength and capability of modern air forces.
- It considers fleet size, aircraft quality, modernization, logistics, and operational readiness. India's indigenous defence capabilities also contributed to the ranking.
- The achievement reflects the IAF's growing combat capability and modernization efforts. It enhances India's reputation as a major global air power.

BANKING NEWS

Aviva Set to Become First Foreign Insurer to Fully Own Indian Life Insurance Business

- Aviva is set to become the first foreign insurer to own 100% of its Indian life insurance business, subject to regulatory approvals. The move follows India's liberalized foreign investment policy in insurance.
- Full ownership will provide Aviva greater strategic and operational control. It also demonstrates the company's long-term confidence in the Indian insurance market.
- The development is expected to attract more foreign investment into India's insurance sector. It will encourage competition, innovation, and improved customer services.

SPORTS NEWS

Noskova Defeats Muchova in Wimbledon Final to Record First Grand Slam Title

- Linda Noskova (Czech Republic) defeated Karolina Muchova 6–2, 5–7, 6–3 to win the 2026 Wimbledon Women's Singles title. It was her first Grand Slam title.
- At 21 years of age, Noskova became the youngest Wimbledon women's champion since Petra Kvitová (2011). She also became the third Czech woman in four years to win Wimbledon.
- Wimbledon is one of the four Grand Slam tournaments and is played on grass courts at the All England Club, London.

Indian Women's Cricket Team Defeats England in Women's Test

- The Indian Women's Cricket Team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, defeated England by 270 runs in the first-ever Women's Test at Lord's Cricket Ground, London. It was India's second-largest victory by runs in Women's Test cricket.
- Yastika Bhatia scored 113, becoming the first woman to score a Test century at Lord's and earning a place on the Lord's Honours Board. Smriti Mandhana scored half-centuries in both innings.
- Kranti Gaud took 5/37 in the first innings and 7/91 in the match, becoming the first woman to claim a five-wicket haul in a Women's Test at Lord's. Sneha Rana and Deepti Sharma also made key contributions with the ball.

Delhi Unveils 'Mayur' Mascot for Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026

- The 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026 will be held at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi, from 27 July to 2 August 2026.
- 'Mayur', inspired by the Indian Peacock (National Bird of India), was unveiled as the official mascot on 14 July 2026.
- The Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships are organized by the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF). The event features top players from Commonwealth countries. Table Tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988 at the Seoul Olympics. It is governed internationally by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

India Wins First-Ever Women's T20I Deaf Cricket Series

- the Indian Deaf Women's Cricket Team won the first-ever Women's Twenty20 International (T20I) series 2026, defeating Sri Lanka Deaf Women's Cricket Team 5–0 at the De Soysa International Cricket Stadium in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- The series marked the first overseas assignment of the Indian Deaf Women's Cricket Team under the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA).
- Indian players dominated the individual honours, with Shraddha Vaishnav named Player of the Final, Reddy Jyoshna adjudged Player of the Series, Chandani Khan winning Best Bowler, and Needa Zabi Shaikh receiving Best Batter.

Durand Cup Trophy Tour Begins in Guwahati

- The 135th IndianOil Durand Cup Trophy Tour began in Guwahati on 16 July 2026, featuring the Durand Cup, President's Cup, and Simla Trophy.
- Durand Cup, first held in 1888, is Asia's oldest football tournament and is named after Mortimer Durand.
- The 135th IndianOil Durand Cup (2026) will be held from 25 July to 23 August 2026 across five host cities: Kolkata, Guwahati, Shillong, Imphal, and Ranchi.

AWARD NEWS**Reliance Foundation Founder Nita Ambani Received Fortune India MPW Honour**

- Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, received the Fortune India Most Powerful Women (MPW) Honour.
- Reliance Foundation works in education, healthcare, rural development, sports, and disaster response.
- Nita Ambani is also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

MOU NEWS**Indian Potash and Jain Irrigation Sign MoU to Promote Drip Irrigation in Sugarcane Farming**

- MoU Signed: Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd. have signed an MoU to promote drip irrigation in sugarcane cultivation. The partnership focuses on water-efficient farming practices.
- Indian Potash Limited (IPL) is a Government-promoted fertilizer company established in 1955, headquartered in Chennai, and is one of India's largest importers and distributors of potash fertilizers.
- Drip irrigation is a micro-irrigation technique that delivers water directly to plant roots, reducing water wastage by up to 30–70% and improving crop productivity.

Google India Signs MoU with Tripura to Build AI Ecosystem

- Google India signed an MoU with the Government of Tripura during the Destination Tripura Business Conclave 2026 to strengthen the state's AI ecosystem, cloud infrastructure, and digital governance.
- The partnership focuses on AI skill development, digital literacy, education, entrepreneurship, workforce training, and modernizing citizen services.
- The initiative will be supported by the Tripura IT & Data Ecosystem Zone (TIDEZ) and a 10-acre IT Park with an AI Centre of Excellence (CoE).

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Leander Paes Named Player Ambassador by Asian Tennis Federation

- Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has been appointed Player Ambassador by the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF). He will promote tennis development across Asian countries.
- Paes will mentor young athletes and encourage grassroots participation in tennis. He will also represent Asian tennis at international events.
- The appointment recognizes his remarkable contribution to the sport. It is expected to inspire young players and strengthen tennis development in Asia.

Former ISRO Chief S. Somanath Joins Agnikul Cosmos Board

- S. Somanath served as the Chairman of ISRO from 2022 to 2025 and led the successful Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions.
- Agnikul Cosmos is a Chennai-based space startup that developed the Agnibaan launch vehicle with 3D-printed rocket engines.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen India's private space ecosystem and accelerate commercial space innovation.

Current ISRO Chairman: Dr. V. Narayanan

Raghuram Rajan Appointed to Key US Federal Reserve Task Force

- Raghuram G. Rajan is a former 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (2013–2016) and previously served as the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The Federal Reserve task force focuses on reviewing banking regulations, financial resilience, and systemic risk management.
- Rajan earlier received the Financial Times–Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award (2010) for *Fault Lines*. He is currently a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

- Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala is an eminent space scientist who has served in senior positions at ISRO, particularly in satellite applications and earth observation programmes.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is responsible for meteorology, ocean sciences, seismology, climate research, and polar science through institutions like IMD, INCOIS, NCMRWF, and NIOT.
- His appointment is expected to strengthen India's capabilities in weather forecasting, disaster early warning systems, and climate services.

OBITUARY NEWS**Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Dies at 74**

- Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the former Emir of Qatar, passed away at the age of 74. He ruled Qatar from 1995 to 2013 before handing power to his son.

- During his reign, Qatar emerged as a major global energy exporter and significantly expanded its international diplomatic and economic influence. He also played a key role in developing the country's infrastructure.
- Qatar's capital is Doha, its currency is the Qatari Riyal (QAR), and it is one of the world's leading exporters of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

Legendary Playback Singer S. Janaki Passed Away at 88

- Legendary playback singer S. Janaki passed away at the age of 88 after a career spanning more than six decades.
- She recorded over 48,000 songs in multiple Indian languages and was popularly known as the "Nightingale of South India."
- S. Janaki won 4 National Film Awards for Best Female Playback Singer and declined the Padma Bhushan (2013).